

AN EARLY MIGRANT AND A NEW MOTH TRAP "PREDATOR".
— An early *Agrotis ipsilon* Hufn. came to my m.v. trap on 19th March, 1977. Since 1958 my only records earlier than May have been 7th March, 1963, 31st March, 1967 and 20th April, 1968.

For several years I have had to put 1 inch wire netting in the entrance to the m.v. trap to keep out bluetits and it has been generally effective, without preventing the entry of large moths such as the Sphingids and *Mormo maura* L. Recently I was looking at the trap from the house window and saw a Wren (*Troglodytes*) entering and coming straight out again with a moth, repeating this performance several times. The bird seemed to have a preference for *Orthosia cruda* D. & S. — L. W. SIGGS, Sungate, Football Green, Minstead, Lyndhurst, Hants.

ATOMARIA CONSANGUINEA JOHNSON (COL.: CRYPTO-PHAGIDAE): TWO FURTHER RECORDS FOR HERTS., INCLUDING THE EARLIEST KNOWN FIND. — I have long had in my collection two examples of an *Atomaria* s.str. from straw refuse near Cheshunt, Herts. (25.xi.45), which the late authority on the genus — Dr. Oscar Sjöberg — determined for me as *nigriventris* Steph.; but as they appeared to me to differ materially from that species, I regarded their identity as still in question. The problem was solved when Mr. Colin Johnson kindly presented me with a paratype of his new species *A. consanguinea* (1975, *Ent. mon. Mag.*, 111: 181-2) — to which (and to his description) the above pair were found to conform perfectly.

More recently I have detected a specimen of the new species which had been mixed with others of the subgenus among duplicates left by G. H. Ashe, taken by P. Harwood at St. Albans (5.x.24) — probably from a manure heap or cut grass. It is of interest in being the earliest capture so far known, since the many published by Johnson are all subsequent to 1930 and mostly of the present decade, including the Continental records. My experience tends to support Mr. Johnson's suggestion that *consanguinea* is displacing its nearly *nigriventris*, which I have only once found (Berkhamsted, Herts., in haystack bottom, ix.35). The sole recent records I have of that species are of one at Wytham Wood, Berks., in *Polystictus versicolor** at base of dead beech, 23.iii.54 (C. Elton, det. Sjöberg); and one from Essex, date and locality not to hand (P. M. Hammond, det. Allen) but doubtless taken in the '50s or '60s. — A. A. ALLEN.

* Because of the habitat, this specimen should perhaps be checked with *A. puncticollis* Thoms. in mind.
